

## **Estimating Percent of Population of CSHCN**

Colorado uses the broad definition of Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) as defined by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) as “children who have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.”

Using this broad MCH definition, 17.1 percent of children in Colorado ages 0-17 have a special health care need based on results from the 2007 National Survey of Children’s Health (NSCH).

In Colorado, there are an estimated 209,000 children ages 0-17 with a special health care need. This number (209,000) is only an estimate and is not an exact count of children with special health care needs in the state.

County population data for children ages 0-17 multiplied by 17.1 percent equals the estimated number of children 0-17 who have special health care needs in your county. For example:  $30,000 \times .171 = 5,130$ . Estimates are less precise in counties with small populations.

When you apply the 17.1 percent to children in your county, ages 0-17, please remember the result is only an estimate based on survey data collected in 2007. It does not represent the exact number of children in your community/county.

Updated data for children/youth ages 0-17 will be available upon completion of the 2011 NSCH. Data for youth ages 18-21 with special health care needs are not available from the NSCH or the Colorado Child Health Survey (CHS).